

- 2,381 interviews conducted and processed among school children aged 11-16 in schools in England and Wales.
- Pupils were selected from a random sample of schools drawn from the Edubase database (a database of schools maintained by the Department for Education).
- Pupils either completed online or filled in questionnaires at school between 5th February - 25th May 2018.
- Results are based on ALL participating pupils, unless otherwise stated.
- Data are weighted by school year, gender and region to match the profile of school children across England and Wales.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than half a per cent, but not zero
- Where results do not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding..

Trend data from previous Sutton Trust Young People Omnibus surveys has been included where applicable.

How likely or unlikely are you to go into higher education when you are old enough?	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Base: All	2381	2612	2555	2488	2796	2595	2757	2739	2700	2447	2387	2417	2334	2709	2303	2469
Very likely	32%	33%	36%	36%	36%	38%	38%	39%	39%	41%	39%	37%	34%	34%	33%	40%
Fairly likely	45%	41%	41%	43%	42%	43%	43%	39%	41%	32%	34%	34%	37%	35%	36%	31%
Fairly unlikely	7%	10%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	8%	5%	7%	7%	8%
Very unlikely	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
Not sure either way yet	11%	11%	10%	9%	10%	8%	9%	10%	11%	13%	19%	17%	19%	18%	18%	14%
Not stated	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	5%	1%	1%	1%	1%	*	2%
Likely	77%	74%	77%	79%	78%	81%	81%	78%	80%	73%	72%	71%	71%	69%	70%	71%
Unlikely	11%	14%	11%	10%	10%	9%	8%	10%	7%	9%	8%	11%	9%	11%	12%	13%
Net likely	66%	60%	66%	69%	68%	72%	73%	68%	72%	64%	64%	60%	62%	58%	58%	58%

Why are you unlikely to go into higher education?	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Base: All who are unlikely to go into higher education	250	349	286	240	291	241
Don't like idea/don't enjoy learning or studying	58%	70%	68%	71%	62%	63%
Reasons included: I prefer to do something practical rather than studying from books; I do not enjoy learning; I don't like the idea of it; Someone from a university talked to me about higher education and it put me off.						
Finance	44%	64%	62%	60%	62%	57%
Reasons included: I want to start earning money as soon as possible; I'm worried about getting into debt as a student; My family can't afford to pay for me to be a student; My family want me to start earning money as soon as possible.						
Not clever enough	35%	44%	44%	37%	38%	41%
Reasons included: I'm not clever enough; I won't get good enough exam results to get into a university.						
Not needed for job	35%	42%	43%	49%	42%	42%
Reasons included: I can get a well-paid job without a degree; I do not need a degree to do the job(s) I am considering						
Social	26%	28%	31%	25%	23%	29%
Reasons included: My parents did not go to university; People like me are not expected to go to university; Most of my friends are not planning to go to university; My teachers are encouraging me to do something else.						
I don't know enough about it	20%	18%	21%	17%	24%	18%
Other	5%	1%	6%	8%	8%	11%
Don't know	4%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Not stated	7%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%

To what extent, if at all, are you worried about the cost of higher education?	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Base: All who are likely to go into higher education	2099	1942	1986	1971	2181
Very worried	12%	12%	9%	10%	12%
Fairly worried	34%	39%	38%	39%	39%
Not very worried	36%	34%	35%	36%	34%
Not at all worried	9%	8%	10%	8%	8%
Don't know	8%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Not stated	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
<i>Worried</i>	46%	51%	47%	49%	51%
<i>Not worried</i>	45%	42%	46%	44%	42%
<i>Net worried</i>	1%	9%	1%	5%	10%

Which of the following, if any, is your biggest concern about the cost of higher education?	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Base: All who are likely to go into higher education and are worried about the cost of higher education	963	968	930	961	1121
Tuition fees of up to £9,000 a year	38%	46%	45%	45%	44%
Having to repay student loans for up to 30 years	24%	18%	19%	18%	18%
The cost of living as a student	16%	16%	17%	15%	17%
Lost earnings by not working	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%
I am not worried about any of these things	1%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Don't know	15%	13%	12%	14%	12%
Not stated	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
<i>Any worries</i>	82%	83%	84%		

How important, if at all, is each of the following things in helping people to do well and get on in life? Going to university	2018
	Base: All 2381
Very important	34%
Fairly important	41%
Not very important	16%
Not at all important	5%
Don't know	3%
Not stated	1%
<i>Important</i>	75%
<i>Not very/at all important</i>	20%
<i>Net important</i>	55%

How important, if at all, is each of the following things in helping people to do well and get on in life? Going to university	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Base: All	2381	2613	2555	2488	2796	2595	2757	2739
Important	75%	78%	80%	81%	82%	86%	84%	79%